

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 CU-04 RSR-01 SAJ-01 /099 W
----- 048526

R 120730 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1080
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1701

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH GOVERNMENT FORMATION: FORMER PRIME MINISTER
DE JONG THROWS UP HIS HANDS

REF: THE HAGUE 1267 AND 1671

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON APRIL 11 PIET DE JONG EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CHAGRIN WITH LATEST TURN OF EVENTS. NETHS HAD MOVED FROM " CHAOS 1 TO CHAOS 2". THERE WAS NO NEED IN HIS VIEW TO HAVE TWO INFORMATEURS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, FURTHER TIME WOULD BE WASTED EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES WHICH HAD BEEN EXHAUSTIVELY WORKED OVER BY RUPPERT AND BURGER FOR MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS. TECHNICALLY VANAGT/ ALBEDA MISSION REPRESENTED NEW APPROACH BUT FORMER PRIMIN GAVE THEM NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING UNLESS LABOR PARTY AND ITS ALLIES SUDDENLY MANIFESTED NEW WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON THEIR PROGRAM.

2. DE JONG SAID WHAT BOTHERED HIM MOST WAS THE " DICTATORIAL " ATTITUDE OF LABOR PARTY IN INSISTING THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATEC PARTIES MUST DEAL WITH ITS PROGRAM ON ATAKE IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS. DE JONG THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A DISTURBING AND UNHEALTHY DEVELOPMENT FOR DUTCH POLITICAL LIFE. AS FOR HIS
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OWN PARTY, THE KVP, DE JONG INDICATED THAT IT HAD STILL NOT GOTTEN ITS BEARINGS. IT HAD TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO STILL NURTURED THE ILLUSION THAT A " ROMAN- RED" COALITION GOVT WAS A POSSIBILITY. ALTHOUGH BURGER HAD FAILED TO FORM A NEW GOVT, HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING THE KVP ON THE DEFENSIVE. DE JONG HAD JUST BEEN TALKING TO KVP PARLIAMENTARY LEADER ANDRIESSEN AND RUEFULLY COMPARED HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO THE JEWS IN HITLER' S GERMANY WHO WERE BLAMED FOR NOT DOING THEIR DUTY TO THE STATE AND WERE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT WENT WRONG.

3. DE JONG THOUGHT THAT EVENTUALLY SOME KIND OF CONFSSIONAL-LIBERAL PARTY GOVT WOULD HAVE TO BE FORMED ALTHOUGH HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS A STONG AVERSION WITHIN THE KVP TO GETTING INTO A NEW GOVT WITH THE LIBERALS, IN ANY EVENT DE JONG WAS NOT MAKING ANY PREDICTIONS ABOUT WHEN THIS WOULD HAPPEN. AS LONG AS THERE WAS NO SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT ENDING THE IMPASSE, HE SAID, THE PRESENT " RIDICULOUS" STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME MORE.
TANGUY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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